

THE CIVILIAN

A FORTNIGHTLY JOURNAL
DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS
OF THE
CIVIL SERVICE OF CANADA

FEATURES

FROM HANSARD.

ROLL OF HONOUR.

THE FUTURE.

PRAISE FOR FINANCE.

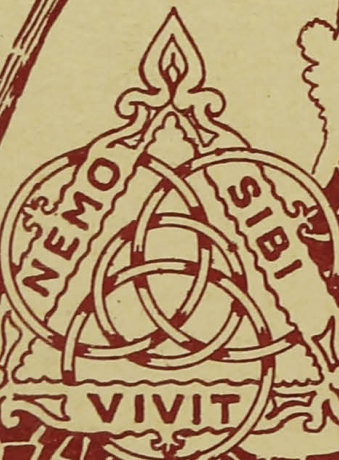
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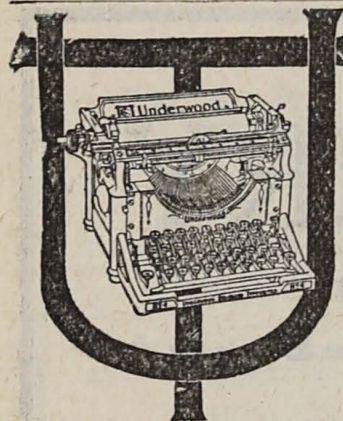
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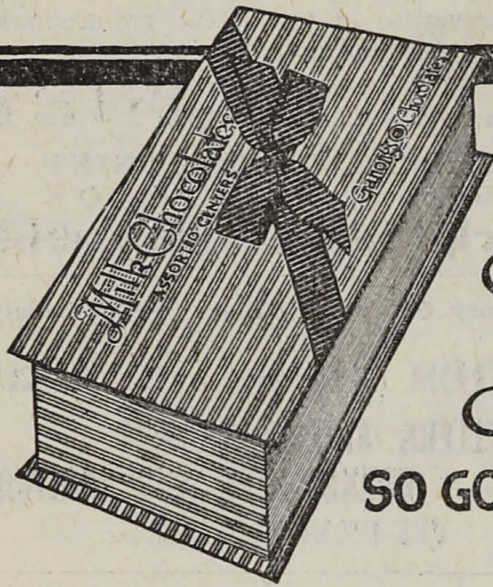
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THE CIVILIAN

VOL. VIII.

MARCH 3, 1916.

No. 23

FROM HANSARD.

Parliamentary Sayings of Interest to Civil Servants.

A glance through recent issues of the official report of debates in the House of Commons shows that the references to matters of special interest to the Civil Service are many and interesting.

Question of Promotion.

Mr. Speaker's recommendation to appoint Mr. Arthur Beauchesne, K. C., to the position of Clerk Assistant of the House to succeed the late J. B. A. Laplante, came up for ratification on the 17th February. Hon. Charles Marcil, of Bonaventure, former Speaker, while raising no objection to the appointment, expressed regret that some officer of the House had not been promoted to the place. Sir Robert Borden pointed out that this was a promotion within the Civil Service, Mr. Beauchesne having been an official of the Department of Justice.

Allowance for Dependents.

On the same occasion, and closely connected with the foregoing, was a request by Hon. Mr. Marcil that some allowance be made the widow of the late Mr. Laplante beyond the allowance of two months' salary which he understood was to be made. The Prime Minister said the matter had not been under his consideration, but that he would bring it to the attention of the sub-committee of Council having charge of such matters.

Mr. Laplante, it will be remembered, was one of the victims of the Parliament Buildings fire. His was not a case of a civil servant meeting

death in the ordinary way, but a case of one killed while on duty.

The Canker of Patronage.

On the same day, in the course of a speech on the Budget which has attracted universal attention, Sir George Foster made a noteworthy reference to the patronage evil. The immediate reference was to public works and the purchase of supplies, but the effect upon the Civil Service was not overlooked. Sir George Foster said:

"Now, as to patronage, I have been thirty-four years in public life; I have been a pretty close student of political parties and political history in this country, and I have simply this to say—I give it as my individual opinion—I have long felt it and I feel it now—that in the whole course of my political life I cannot point to a single instance where political patronage ever helped the status of the bench, ever helped the status of the Civil Service, ever helped in the economy of their administration the status of public administrators, no matter what functions they performed, never helped a member of Parliament in reality, never helped a Government in reality; it almost always causes the dry rot and disintegration that break up government after government and party after party, and I wish now, in the white heat and light of this great contest and struggle and the self-sac-

rifice that we are called upon to make, that we might speak from the heart out, and make an agreement in this country between both parties, that hereafter patronage shall not be applied by political parties in the construction of our public works. Now, that is a frank admission. Some may say to me that I have no right to make it. I presume upon my grey beard and thirty-four years in public life, and I make that statement for what it is worth. I will just append to that one single sentence, and it is this: that if there is any laxity in the public virtue of this country to-day, if there is any canker of public corruption, in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred you can trace it to the baleful effect of political party patronage."

Enlistment of Civil Servants.

On the 23rd of February Mr. Pugsley asked whether any difference was made as between one civil servant and another when both enlisted for overseas service. He said:

"We have been informed by the Government that since the first of November last young men in the Civil Service who enlist are allowed the difference between the pay which they receive as military men and their salaries as members of the Civil Service. I am informed that members of the Civil Service who have entered the service since the war began, that is, during the past eighteen months, are deprived of this privilege. I wish to know if that distinction is made and, if so, the reason for it."

The debate proceeded:

"Sir SAM HUGHES: The rule in force is that members of the Civil Service who enlisted in the army prior to the 1st of November last draw their salaries as civil servants and also their pay and allowances as soldiers. Those who have joined the colours since the 1st of November, 1914, receive

their military pay and an additional amount which brings it up to the amount of their Civil Service salaries, if their salaries in the Service were larger than their military pay. I am not aware of the existence of any such rule as my hon. friend had referred to, and I do not think that young men who have joined the Civil Service since the war broke out are discriminated against as he has suggested. I will look into the matter and give my hon. friend further information.

"Mr. PUGSLEY: My information comes from two different sources, and I am satisfied my hon. friend will find, on inquiry, that there is ground for the statement which I have made.

"Sir SAM HUGHES: I will look into it."

Deputy Minister.

In the course of a debate on the estimates for the Department of Justice on the 21st of February, Hon. George P. Graham called attention to the fact that the Deputy Minister of Justice receives \$10,000 a year, as against \$5,000 for some of the deputy ministers. When he was reminded that as Minister of Railways in the former government he had a deputy with a large salary, he explained that the gentleman referred to had held the two positions of deputy minister and chief engineer. It was similarly explained that the present Deputy Minister of Justice also pleads cases in the Supreme Court of Canada and before the Privy Council without fees. Mr. Graham expressed the opinion that the salaries of deputies as a class should not be fixed, but that each should be paid according to work done and responsibility borne.

Estimates.

The House of Commons has spent a good many hours in Committee of Supply. Among the items voted recently are the following:

Commission of Conservation, \$80,000, a reduction of \$13,000 as compared with last year.

Salaries of Department of Justice, \$146,224.37, an increase of \$4,075.62, mainly statutory.

WAR PERSONALS.

Lieut. O. A. Hnston, lately of the East Surrey regiment, has returned to Canada. Lieut. Huston is a Winnipeg Customs officer and enlisted with the 79th Cameron Highlanders for the war. He was in the 30th Battalion, was wounded, sent to an English hospital, and given a British commission. Later, he was transferred back to the Canadians.

Miss Marion Ruddick, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Ruddick, who has been nursing in France for several months, has been on furlough in England and has gone now to join the staff of nurses at the central military hospital in Shorncliffe, where Miss Margaret Smith, also of Ottawa, is the matron.

Fred. A. Fair, of the Customs Department, Ottawa, enlisted with the Army Medical Corps and attached to the Duchess of Connaught's Hospital, sustained a broken leg on January 24th.

Stanley Hind, of the Customs, serving in the C.A.S.C., has been ill but is again with his unit.

A. T. Howard, Customs, Montreal, with the 15th Battalion, who was ill, is again on duty.

Lieut. J. P. McQuarrie, Customs, Edmonton, with the 49th Battalion, is convalescent after an illness.

Staff-Sergt. Wallace Robinson, A.M.C., has had his right arm broken. He is a Toronto Customs man.

M. L. Ruttle, of the Customs Department, who went over with the C.A.D.C., is ill in No. 9 Stationary Hospital.

Lieut. D. P. Stewart, 21st Battalion, has been ill. He belongs to the Customs, Port of Ottawa.

OUR DEAD AND WOUNDED.

LIEUT. E. A. THOMAS.

Lieutenant E. A. Thomas, 4th Canadian Mounted Rifles, was reported, in the casualty list of February 14th, to be wounded and suffering from shock. He is an engineer of the Department of Public Works at St. John, N.B.

CAPT. H. S. MONKMAN.

Captain Herbert Stanley Monkman, of the 3rd Canadian Mounted Rifles, in civil life a medical officer of the Outside Service of the Department of Indian Affairs, was killed in action on December 2nd under circumstances of peculiar gallantry. The story is given elsewhere in this issue.

W. J. FANNING.

W. J. Fanning, of the Customs staff at Quebec, reported missing and wounded last July, is now unofficially reported to be a prisoner of war. He belongs to the 8th Royal Rifles and was serving in the 12th Battalion, C.E.F.

H. O. FILION.

Hector O. Filion, of the Statistics Branch of the Customs, who was reported wounded in May, 1915, is now unofficially reported to be a prisoner of war and wounded. It is said that both of his legs have been amputated.

W. A. GARDNER.

W. A. Gardner, of the 28th Battalion, C.E.F., has been wounded in the head but has recovered. He is a Customs officer from Saskatoon.

JOHN HAY.

John Hay, of the Customs, Winnipeg, was discharged from hospital on January 20th, 1916, having recovered from a fracture of the ankle. Hay was a 90th Winnipeg Rifles recruit, and is a company sergeant-major in the 8th Battalion, C.E.F. He has won the Distinguished Conduct Medal.

F. A. SMITH.

Lance-Corporal F. A. Smith, 2nd Battalion, C.E.F., has been gassed. He is clerk in the Statistical Branch of the Department of Customs, and a former member of the 23rd Battery, C.F.A.

A HERO'S DEATH.

The striking story of how a terribly injured man forgot his own great suffering when he observed the plight of a wounded comrade and how he finally gave up his life in the effort to aid his friend, is told in the report of the death of Captain H. S. Monkman of the 3rd Canadian Mounted Rifles, a medical officer of the Department of Indian Affairs, who was killed at the front on December 2nd, 1915. Information in connection with case was gathered by C. E. Hughes, Indian Agent at Saddle Lake, Alberta, who reported to his Department as follows:

"On the 2nd December last, during a heavy bombardment by the Germans of the front line trenches occupied by the 3rd C.M.R. of which Dr. Monkman was captain, the parapet at a certain point was hit by a German shell and Dr. Monkman was buried under the falling sand bags. Major F. Fane, commanding the 3rd C.M.R., was badly wounded in this engagement.

"Eventually Dr. Monkman was dug out and it was found that he was unable to walk as his back was evidently paralyzed. Noticing that Major Fane was wounded, Dr. Monkman started to crawl to him with the probable intention of giving the major medical assistance.

"The Doctor had just arrived at a turning of the trench when a German shell fell and exploded near him. A fragment of the shell hit him over the heart and another on the temple, killing him instantly."

SALARIES OF ENLISTED MEN.

The Government during a discussion of Interior Department estimates in the House recently was urged to put an end to the practice of paying their salaries to civil servants who have enlisted for active service and are receiving military pay.

Mr. J. G. Turriff, of Assiniboia, considered this practice was an outrageous one and stated that a great many of the civil servants who had enlisted early in the war had succeeded in remaining in Canada and yet were receiving double pay. Mr. Kyte, of Richmond, N.S., spoke of one young man who was drawing \$1,800 per year and his pay as a soldier and was still at Halifax.

A "BREACH OF FAITH."

Hon. Dr. Roche said that the Government felt that it would be guilty of a breach of faith if it cancelled the pay of men who enlisted early in the war with the understanding that they would continue to receive it.

Sir Robert Borden supplemented the statement by explaining that in the early part of the war when it was thought the conflict would be a brief one a number of corporations and municipal bodies had offered to pay the salaries of employees who enlisted for active service. The Government had felt it could not do less.

As the war continued, however, and the number of men enlisting increased, the strain became a heavy one and therefore the Government had decided that civil servants who enlisted after November 1 would not receive their salaries as well as their military pay. It was felt that it would be a breach of faith to stop the salaries of men who went before that date.

Did you see the Kaiser on the ruins of the Senate chamber? Many who had good eyes found themselves weak in imagination.

The Roll of Honour.

FORTY-FIRST LIST.

Allan Donnell, Commission of Conservation, 45th Battery, C.F.A., C.E.F.
 G. H. Ferguson, Commission of Conservation, Hydrological Corps.
 Edward C. Little, Commission of Conservation, 53rd Battery, C.F.A., C.E.F.
 Capt. Frank Grierson, Finance, commanding 53rd Battery, C.F.A., C.E.F.
 Capt. H. R. Pousette, Trade and Commerce, 9th South Wales Borderers.
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 C. S. Bennett, Public Works, St. John, N.B.
 F. G. Bolitha, Public Works, Victoria, B.C., Royal Flying Corps.
 J. R. Bowan, Public Works, Ottawa, 80th Battalion, C.E.F.
 W. B. Bradley, Public Works, Ottawa, 8th C.M.R.
 C. W. Brown, Public Works, St. John, N.B., 4th Siege Battery, C.E.F.
 — Chalifour, Public Works, Levis, 150th Battalion, C.E.F.
 H. Chugg, Public Works, Ottawa, 77th Battalion, C.E.F.
 J. H. Colton, Public Works, Ottawa.
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 A. W. Gregory, Public Works, Ottawa, 58th Battery, C.F.A., C.E.F. (draft).
 G. Guimond, Public Works, Ottawa, 150th Battalion, C.E.F.
 F. Y. Harcourt, Public Works, Port Arthur, 94th Battalion, C.E.F.
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 V. J. Kent, Public Works, Fort William, 29th Battery, C.F.A., C.E.F.
 Clem. King, Public Works, Ottawa, 32nd Battery, C.F.A., C.E.F.
 James Leigh, Public Works, Lethbridge, 39th Battery, C.F.A., C.E.F.
 Miss Catherine Lyons, Public Works, Kamloops, Red Cross.
 G. L. Martin, Public Works, B.C., Royal Navy.
 G. E. Martin, Public Works.
 J. H. Munro, Public Works, Ottawa, 38th Battalion, C.E.F.
 A. McLeod, Public Works, Vancouver.
 T. Nichols, Public Works, 6th Field Co., C.E.
 H. H. S. Nutting, Public Works, Ottawa, 8th Brigade, C.F.A., C.E.F.
 George McNutt, Public Works.
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THE CIVILIAN

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Ottawa, March 3, 1916.

THE NATIONAL DUTY.

"I am much impressed by what has just been said as to the part that woman—and especially Edith Cavell—has played in this dark and sombre page of history, and as long as there are women of the courage that Edith Cavell has shown, England will not fail, and the cause of the allies assuredly will not fail."

—Hon. J. M. Beck.

"As a part of a Christian Empire we are called to do our share in curbing the great fighting power that has brought on this war. A spirit of service and of sacrifice is moving our Empire and our allies. But the nation is made up of individuals, and unless we should shield ourselves behind better men each one of us must separately ask himself: What service can I render; what gift can I offer; what work can I do to help to win this war? Why should not I enlist?"

—Rev. Dr. Gordon, Queen's University.

"I gave the lads some cheery words, but really they did not need any cheering up."

—Maj. Gen. Sir Sam. Hughes, Review in England.

OUR BOYS

Previously reported:

Dead	42
Wounded	74
Prisoners	7

DEAD.

CAPT. W. H. MONKMAN.

WOUNDED.

LIEUT. E. A. THOMAS.

W. J. FANNING.

W. A. GARDNER.

JOHN HAY.

F. A. SMITH.

THE FUTURE.

The declaration by the Minister of Finance, which is published elsewhere in this issue, will be read by civil servants throughout Canada with mingled feelings.

Gratification will be the first sentiment aroused. Many a minister has been served with devotion even in times less trying than these, but not often is the acknowledgment made that gives people to know that their labors have been successful. Ministers have the dual character of political organizers and governmental administrators, and quite often the former character overshadows the latter. Sir Thomas White is an administrator by profession, and good work done in that line gives him the satisfaction of the artist and enthusiast. There has rarely been in office a man whose commendation for the work of the Service is more to be coveted. We can feel much as Kipling did when the illustrious Tennyson commended some of his early verses. "When the commander-in-chief," he said, "singles out the common soldier and commends him before the army, the soldier does not

presume to thank him, but the next day he fights better."

Hope that the Civil Service is to be taken seriously by those in whose hands its fortunes rest is another emotion that will follow the reading of the laudatory words of the Finance Minister. The Service has been neglected, ridiculed, used for personal and party ends, suspected, cajoled, bullied,—it has been treated in every way except the right way by all concerned. When those who are in the best position to judge declare that the Service can do business, do it well, do it well even under trying conditions, surely the time is at hand when the Canadian public and its political representatives will see that the Civil Service ought to be treated on a business and common-sense basis. Fair conditions of work, organization that will promote self-respect, and reasonable reward for good work done,—these three things at least should be secured.

But what a mixed mixture of feelings comes over the interested reader when he comes to Sir Thomas White's statement that for the present the increase of salaries of civil servants is not to be considered.

We are in the midst of a war. The Government preaches economy, and does well so to preach. If it practises economy,—we could surely have no more convincing proof of it than that we are the anti-beneficiaries of it. And economy is right at this time. Who can doubt it? How much better off we are than those, including so many of our own number, whose sense of duty has caused them to give up all the good things of life, and even life itself, in defense of the nation whose servants we are.

And yet, the war is making stronger and stronger that ancient, grievous and persistent enemy of us all, the Cost of Living. In other lines of endeavour, we are told, profits are increasing and wages are ris-

ing because of the war. In many department of the Government, as in that over which Sir Thomas White presides, the work is heavier and the responsibility more burdensome because of the war.

The Civil Service has loyally and unitedly postponed its claims for consideration of salary reforms and other reforms as well, in order that those having Canada's affairs in charge might not be embarrassed in their momentous and tremendous labours. Before Sir Thomas White spoke the Civil Service itself had spoken in favor of a postponement of domestic problems until the vital problems of the war should be solved. We have no regrets and no desire to change; the war is the first and supreme consideration.

But every man and woman in the Civil Service is pledged to his or her own people and to his or her own future, as well as pledged in loyalty to the Service itself, to make a career even in the humbler ranks of public office worthy not only in good work done but in fair reward received. It can be of no benefit to the public to weaken the Civil Service at this time. But if great rewards are offered in other fields and no rewards in the Civil Service, the results to Canada may be injurious, even keeping in view nothing but the war.

The interest of the Civil Service is in reality the public interest. And in nothing is the public more vitally concerned than in maintaining an administrative organization than can respond to even the heaviest demands that may be made upon its working power.

A DANGER IGNORED IS A DANGER STILL.

The Civilian does not like to say "We told you so,"—but that would be a true remark just the same. On more than one occasion this journal

has urged better fire protection and better fire-escapes for buildings occupied as government offices. Greater activity on the part of the proper sub-committee of the Civil Service Association has been urged and every improvement to the buildings in the line of fire prevention has been commended. A survey of all the buildings has been suggested. It must be owned that the supine attitude of the Civil Service organization on this matter has been most disappointing, not only to the editors but to scores of civil servants who knew that their places of employment were not as safe as they might be. Members of the executive committee of the association have excused themselves from responsibility by saying that there were no specific complaints. The chief of the Ottawa fire department does not wait for complaints. He inspects all buildings,—*looks for danger*,—and takes means to remove it. He has done much to make government office buildings safer for their inmates. With his powerful assistance the Civil Service organization could accomplish much more,—particularly at this time,—if it would only bestir itself. Some members of the Service are in their graves because of dangers ignored. Some members of the executive committee had narrow escapes from a like fate. Perhaps the matter of fire protection will be of some interest to them hereafter.

In connection with the statement of the Civil Service Patriotic Fund contribution, published in the last issue of *The Civilian*, it may be explained that the expression "including Outside Service" as applied to the Departments of Inland Revenue and Public Works refers only to the outside divisions of these departments located in Ottawa. Similarly, "Railway Mail Service" means only the Ottawa division of that service.

Other branches of the outside services of these and other departments contribute to the Civil Service Federation fund or to local funds in several towns and cities. It may also be noted that many outside government employees subscribed in 1914 for a certain amount per month for the duration of the war. These persons do not, of course, subscribe again this year.

There's khaki for every man.

* * *

Your King and Country need you,
—now.

* * *

Lest any misunderstand, it may be stated that there is not a man now connected with *The Civilian* committee who can pass the required examination for military service.

* * *

Examine the Roll of Honour. If you can give any further information as to ranks or corps about the men mentioned there, send a note to the editors. The details will be added in the permanent record.

* * *

No story of the war shines brighter with true heroism than that of the death of Captain Monkman, published elsewhere in this issue. The public service of Canada may be proud to have had such a man in its ranks.

* * *

Leave your pipe and matches with the policeman at the door. Chewing,—either of tobacco, gum or the rag,—is not forbidden; in fact, the rag has had more hard wear than usual during the past ten days.

TO ALL CORRESPONDENTS.

Late copy retards the printing and distribution of *The Civilian*. Early copy helps everybody and is much surer of insertion. All correspondents and contributors are urged to send in their copy just as soon as it is ready.

THE EAST BLOCK.

The Ottawa "Journal" of February 22nd discussed fire protection in government buildings in a leading editorial, the concluding sentences of which were as follows:

"Let us give a serious warning to the Government.

"If fire should get headway in daytime in say the East block, in which are the offices of the Governor General and the Prime Minister, there will be a holocaust which will shock Canada.

"The building is in some respect cluttered with inflammable rubbish, with infinitesimal safeguards.

"Fire-doors adorn the corridors pretty numerously; but most of the partitions between the offices are lath-and-plaster.

"No fire escapes exist; yet from many offices on the third floor the occupants would have to run many hundred feet to-and-fro along corridors on both the third and fourth floors to get to stairs to the ground floor.

"As conditions are at present, the East block is a fire-trap for human life. We say nothing about a vast collection of important national documents. Surely, no precaution should be spared."

FIRE ECHOES.

The Government has accepted the offer of the sheriff and corporation of London, England, who desire to present the Canadian House of Commons with a new mace. A small portion of the old mace was recovered from the ruins of the destroyed chamber and will be incorporated in the new emblem.

A freakish after-discovery was that a turret on the Senate side of the building with some wreckage fallen against it gave an outline re-

sembling the figures of the Kaiser and Death, standing side by side, surveying the scene of desolation.

An army of men have been engaged in clearing away the ruins and the site is now nearly ready for the builders. Electric lights were placed in every part of the building and the work was carried on by night as well as by day. Steam jets were used to melt the great coating of ice from the walls.

The main outer walls and the tower are in excellent condition and this assures that the general architectural style of the old building will be followed in the reconstruction. It is hoped that some of the additions,—such as the "bird cage" on the top of the tower,—which marred the pure Gothic style will be omitted when the new work is done. Preliminary plans submitted to the Government provide for larger chambers for the Senate and Commons. They will be located at the extreme east and west ends of the building.

LONDON R.M.C. ASSOCIATION.

Regular meeting held Feb. 13, 1916, presided over by the new President, J. W. Stewart. Financial statement for the year received, read and accepted.

Communication to the effect that the London and Lancashire Guarantee and Accident Company had been officially selected for purpose of writing mail clerks' special policies was filed.

Resignation of J. D. Anderson as Financial Secretary accepted. N. C. Lanaway elected to the vacancy.

The President reported that eight members of the association have recently enlisted and are in training for overseas duty: Messrs. W. W. MacVicar, Murdy, Munro, Kitson, McNiven, McPhail, Hughes and Haggan. Arrangements were com-

pleted to make a suitable presentation to each of these patriotic men.

The following communications were received and taken into consideration:

Dear Sirs,—

As President of the Railway Mail Service Association for 1916, I was requested by the association at the last regular meeting to address a letter to the clerks outlining what we have done, and intend to do in the future towards making our conditions better.

You are no doubt aware that the association has been handicapped by the great war in which our country has taken such a noble part, and it would be foolish for us to approach the Government in any matter pertaining to monetary considerations. On the other hand the association has aimed to assist every patriotic proposal, and, I am sure, the Government recognizes what we are doing.

I wish to call your attention to the fact that through our association, linked with the Civil Service Federation, railway mail clerks may now get a very cheap and satisfactory accident insurance policy, notice of which you no doubt have received through circular letter.

It is my intention to get in touch with other associations to find out what efforts are being put forward for the restoration of permits or some other means of transportation, also as to what can be done for better conditions, as I stated above it is no time for monetary considerations, but it may be a good time to secure improved conditions.

Last but not least, I wish to draw your attention to the fact that the association has not let any clerk that has enlisted for active service leave the country without showing him that our hearts are in the right place. It has been our aim to present them with a wrist watch or its equivalent in cash. We now have eight clerks who have enlisted and have not been presented with anything, as you will have noticed by the last financial statement that we were in no shape to do so without calling for the membership fee of one dollar for this year's card. I am well aware of the many calls that are being made, but I am sure you will not fail us at this particular time.

Do your best to boost the association and I am sure we will succeed. I will be very pleased to hear from you regarding any suggestion and will see same are brought up at the next regular meeting.

Thanking you for electing me President for the ensuing year,

I remain,

Yours very truly,

(Signed) J. W. STEWART,

Can. J. and St. Thos. R.P.O.

* * *

Office of Supt. R.M.S.,

Feb. 5th, 1916.

Members of Railway Mail Service,
London, Ont.

As there is a general feeling among the members of the Railway Mail Service of this district that they should continue subscription to one of the many funds for patriotic purposes, I am asked to have each member express his opinion as to the most suitable fund to which to subscribe and whether you are prepared to contribute a certain sum each month for the year 1916.

It has been suggested that a sum equal to 2½ per cent. of each member's salary be given, payable each month, or otherwise, as may be considered most convenient. Such a sum would not be an excessive tax on any clerk's salary; and I am of the opinion that no more necessary or deserving object can be found than that for the care of Canadian soldiers who have been rendered incapable, either through illness or wounds, of supporting themselves.

This district has already subscribed to the Canadian Soldiers' Disablement Fund the sum of \$1,053.52, which has been very much appreciated.

It appears that some statements have been made to the effect that the Civil Service as a whole has not borne their share in contributing to funds for patriotic purposes. Judging from what has been done in the London district this statement is not warranted from facts, but the impression has no doubt gained credence from the fact that the Civil Service has not been given full credit as a body for their contributions, so many members having subscribed to local organizations; and it is felt that in justice to ourselves, and as an example to others, we cannot afford to "hide our light under a bushel," but rather should contribute as a body, so that those who are inclined to question our patriotism may have no grounds for their assertions.

Will you kindly let me have an expression of your opinion of the above suggestion. If satisfactory, sign and return to this office, or, if not, please state your objection.

R. G. MERCER,

Supt. R.M.S.

A NEAT APPRECIATION.

Thrust back from certain death when the Commons fire began, Charles George, steward of the parliamentary restaurant, recently evinced his appreciation to his rescuer, J. E. Knox, constable of the Dominion police force, and presented him with a handsome gold watch.

In the early stages of the Commons fire, when members of the House staff were vigorously attempting to extinguish the flames, Mr. George with the deceased Mr. A. Desjardins and R. Fanning, were working in a corridor in the basement just east of the door of the Speaker's Chamber.

For a moment Mr. George separated himself from Desjardins and Fanning and as he was about to rejoin them a crash overhead was heard, and Constable Knox grabbed the restaurant steward and thrust him back to safety.

Seconds later the bodies of Desjardins and Fanning were buried beneath tons of debris, and were recovered only after days of search.

MANITOBA R.M.C. ASSOCIATION.

The regular monthly meeting of the Association was held, the President, Mr. Borland, in the chair.

Arising out of the minutes of the last meeting, the Secretary was asked to write to the secretaries of Western associations to ascertain if there are any temporary clerks appointed in their divisions who are physically fit for military duty.

The Secretary was instructed to write the B. C. Secretary for more information regarding the "Guarantee Fund," as mentioned in his letter to Mr. Cyr.

There was considerable discussion re a concert and dance to be held in the near future, the Secretary moved, and Mr. Hunt seconded,

"that a committee of four be appointed to meet the committees from the letter carriers and postal clerks to arrange for a concert and dance."

The following clerks were appointed a committee: Messrs. Chislett, Hammill, Campbell and Davidson.

Moved by D. Campbell, and seconded by L. Chislett, "that a letter of thanks be sent to Mr. Haney for his kindness in having the photos of the machine gun crew framed."—Carried.

VANCOUVER NOTES.

Alongside the roll of honour in the customs office facing the gateway of the elevator has been placed the portrait of Sergt. Herbert Edward Moore, who was a member of the Duke of Connaught's Own. He died from wounds on May 15th, 1915. The portrait was supplied by Mr. "Punch" Burns of the customs staff, and was hung with appropriate ceremonies this morning by Collector Bowell and Surveyor of Customs Lt.-Col. Worsnop.

February 2nd was the twenty-first anniversary of the establishment of mail delivery in Vancouver. The service started with four carriers, Sam. Cornwall, who is now in the Money Order office; Roderick Reid, who is doing clerical work; M. E. Bolton, who is in the Post Office Inspector's office, and G. P. Carr, who is in the street box collection department. There are now 175 letter carriers.

A largely attended and most successful whist, drive and dance was held in the O'Brien hall by the letter carriers of Vancouver in aid of the local Patriotic Fund, and the very respectable sum of \$42.75 was handed over to the Secretary of the Fund.

At the usual monthly meeting of the local Customs staff, Mr. Collector Bowell in the chair, the following amounts were unanimously voted:—

Canadian Patriotic Fund, Vancouver branch, \$300.00, and a further sum of \$125.00 per month during the remainder of the year; Prisoners of War Fund, \$100.00. A small donation was made to a very deserving case.

The statement of the Vancouver Post Office War Fund from Jan. 1st to Feb. 2nd stood as follows: Cash in hand, \$2.24; total receipts, Jan. 15th to Feb. 2nd, \$500.00; total expenditures, Jan. 4th to Feb. 2nd, \$498.43; leaving a balance on hand as at Feb. 2nd of \$3.81.

Principal disbursement of above: Canadian Patriotic Fund, Vancouver branch, \$250.00; South Hill Red Cross, \$25.00.

TORONTO P. C. ASSOCIATION.

At the recent meeting of the Toronto Postal Service Patriotic Association, the following officers were elected:

George Ross, I.S.O., chief post office superintendent, chairman; W. B. Rogers, postmaster, vice-chairman; A. T. Middleton, secretary; W. E. Lemon, deputy postmaster, and F. Secor, treasurers. Committee, W. B. Rogers, J. North, R. Durston, H. S. Tipple, A. V. Smith, T. B. Peake, J. B. Loan. Auditors, W. L. Allwell, W. Green.

The members of the Toronto Postal Service are contributing at least 1% of their salary to be set aside as a permanent fund to be devoted to such patriotic purposes as may be decided upon from time to time by the association.

The first month's contribution, amounting to approximately \$750.00, has been donated to the Toronto and York Patriotic Fund.

At the annual meeting of the Toronto Postal Benefit Association, held on the 8th inst., the following officers were elected for the current

year: J. Dowling, president; A. J. Rosenberg, vice-president; A. T. Middleton, treasurer; W. L. Allwell, secretary. Executive Committee, W. Christie, G. M. Ross, J. J. O'Connor, A. E. Crate, A. O. Murray. Auditors, H. M. Willmott, H. C. Sloan.

The object of the association is the payment of a funeral benefit of \$150.00 for members of the association.

The following members of the Toronto Postal Benefit Association deceased during the last year: A. M. McIntyre, G. N. Fraser, N. Pascoe, J. Woodhouse, J. Carroll, F. Tait, H. Falkiner, H. Pascoe.

C. S. RED CROSS SOCIETY.

The Civil Service branch of the Red Cross Society is now in the Hope Building, Rooms 408 and 409 on the 4th floor, having moved twice since Christmas. The work has been going on as usual, and a really remarkable amount is accomplished considering the short time Civil Service women have to devote to it. There are sewing machines in the rooms, and opportunity for sewing there from 5 to 6 each day.

The following is a report of the work accomplished and sent in to headquarters during the period from October 27th to February 10th: hospital shirts, 73; fracture shirts, 27; pyjamas, 42 suits; socks, 117 pairs; sheets, 71; pillow slips, 56 $\frac{3}{4}$ doz.; towels, 1 doz.; wristlets, 36 pairs; scarves, 59; bandages, 1,140; sponges, 380; triangular bandages, 4.

In addition to these there have been donated: socks, 8 pairs; wristlets, 3 pairs; Balaclava cap, 1; handkerchiefs, 6; cigarettes and old linen; and the following from the office of the Post Office Inspector sent direct to headquarters: fracture shirts, 9; hospital shirts, 5; pyjamas, 2 suits; washcloths, 7.

"NO SMOKING."

"The horse has been stolen." An unguarded window or chimney may have been responsible for the loss but, to prove the proverb, it is now ordered to "lock the door." Here is the order:

"It has been decided to prohibit smoking in all buildings in Ottawa occupied by officials and employees of the Dominion Government, and with that in view I will be obliged if you will notify the different officials of your department accordingly. Notice to this effect will be posted in the different buildings and officers of the Dominion police have been authorized to see that the regulation is enforced."

This order is signed by J. B. Hunter, Deputy Minister of Public Works, and copies have been received by the deputy heads of other departments. In most, if not all, cases the order was countersigned by these officials and posted on notice boards forthwith.

A new order against smoking, spitting or loitering in corridors is also displayed at police posts.

The new regulation was greeted with general approval throughout the Service. The danger of fire from unextinguished matches or butts abandoned by smokers is admitted and conditions in some of the buildings are such that a fire would involve heavy loss to property and jeopardize many lives. The men of the Service determined to obey the order strictly, both because it is an order and because it is in the interest of safety to do so. It is this spirit that makes the rules effective, for violations would be easy to accomplish and hard to detect.

During the first few days there were many funny incidents. One chap endeavoured to violate the order when no one was observing him. A surprise visit forced him to thrust

his pipe into his pocket without emptying it. A few minutes later he was fighting a fire which had made a large hole in the side of his coat. Men filled their pipes, struck matches and,—thought of the new order. Then the matches were carefully extinguished and the pipes put away. Others remembered too late; then there was a hasty disposal of the burning weed and an opening of windows to let out the tell-tale smoke.

A certain clerk is said to have lighted a cigarette while talking to his deputy minister. Another deputy head was observed carefully emptying his pipe before he re-entered the West Block after lunch.

There are men to whom the order brings real hardship,—those who can think better or work more effectively when smoking, and those who habitually soothe their nerves after a hard spell of work by a few draughts of smoke.

Casual comment often manifested resentment, but sober expressions were almost unanimously in support of the order. It is generally felt, however, that the rule should be enforced upon all persons in the buildings. High officials, ministers, members of parliament and visitors should have to conform to it. Otherwise the order will be unjust and of no value as a safeguard against fire. It is recalled that one of the fires of comparatively recent occurrence originated in the office of a minister and was believed to have been started by the minister's own cigar, left behind on his desk when he went to lunch.

In some offices, even those tenanted exclusively by men, the new order will work no practical hardship because they have had for years a rule against smoking in office hours. The lunch-hour cigarette or the pipe kept alight for a few minutes after arrival in the office and before the be-

ginning of work will be cut out in future.

"The best thing for us smokers," said one civil servant in commendation of the new order. "It will help to protect us against ourselves. When a man is free to smoke at his desk he is 'almost sure to smoke too much.'"

"The new order is a blessing to many ladies in the Service," said one of them, "for men have been inconsiderate in their use of tobacco in too many cases. At the same time, I am sorry for some of the older men to whom smoking means so much. To some of the men in our branch it will mean a deprivation more serious than many of us imagine."

A hasty canvass of the offices affected by the new order revealed a wonderfully large proportion of men who either do not smoke at all or do not smoke at their work. The number who spoke against the new regulation made a very small percentage of those whose opinions on the subject were asked.

Here is the gist of several letters received: "Matches" writes: "The new anti-smoking rule is all right if the intention is to actually enforce it. But what I fear is that it will be defied or disregarded by some, while its observance by others will be made compulsory. The pipe of a chief clerk is just as great a fire danger as the cigarette of the junior."

"An Old Smoker" tends to be indignant. He writes: "Why should we who know how to handle pipes and matches be deprived of our smoke because some fools are careless? I have been a smoker for thirty years, and smoke at will in any part of my own house, yet I have never had a fire in my life. I cannot work at my best if I am prevented from smoking. My pipe concentrates and clears my thoughts,

and my particular job in the Service calls for some thinking."

"Anti" says: "The new order is the only sane way to proceed. It is a recognized fact among fire insurance experts that smoking exposes us to constant danger of fire. Why should the selfish indulgence of some be catered to when it exposes all to danger of a horrible death? Some of the buildings in which civil servants work are known to be fire-traps. The most ordinary sense of caution should cause the strict enforcement of the new rule."

THE COST OF LIVING REPORT.

The report of the "Board of Inquiry into the Cost of Living," which was submitted to the Prime Minister on August 1st, 1914, has now been printed as a public document and the two ponderous volumes and smaller "Synopsis of Exhibit by the Statistical Branch of the Department of Labour" as to the rise in prices and the cost of living in Canada, now lie before us.

The present writer is glad that he is not called upon to read the report in order to reach the conclusion that it is a valuable contribution to the literature on the subject, otherwise it would have been impossible to write this appreciation of the really excellent work performed by the investigators. Indeed, one may be pardoned for venturing the belief that the work has been so thoroughly done, the mass of information accumulated so great, that not many people will be able to read and digest the whole of the contents of the 2,146 closely printed pages. Nevertheless, the compendium of information, with its copious index, will be of much value even if simply taken up and studied in snatches. It is only necessary to mention some of the matters more or less exhaustively dealt with by the inquirers. They

take up and investigate the movement of the population from the land; industrial efficiency in its relation to service and production; adulteration and inspection of staple commodities; waste and extravagance; uneconomical household expenditures; rents, houses, town planning, public utilities, land speculation, land tax; monopolies, industrial combinations, mergers and trusts; building materials; leather, rubber, boots and shoes; cereals, flour and bread; fish, live stock, meats, dairy products, markets and marketing; mixed farming — land settlement; agricultural credit in Canada; regulation of industry, bureaus of information, employment; the customs tariff; gold production — supply and demand; practical education.

These and many other matters are discussed, reported on, illustrated by tabular comparisons and diagrams, the information being couched, almost without exception, in plain and understandable language.

One of the most noteworthy features in connection with this report is the fact that it is the work entirely of civil servants. We believe that it is the first inquiry of the status of what is ordinarily denominated "a royal commission" which has been conducted throughout by civil servants. We are not required to endorse the conclusions of the Board of Inquiry, either in whole or in part, to recognize the genuine merit and lasting value of their work. They have submitted conclusions which they arrived at as the result of their labours; had we time and opportunity to read, mark and inwardly digest the contents of the volumes they have compiled, we might reach a different view; so, too, may others who find opportunity to examine the report; but that does not in any degree detract from the value of the great task which the Board has performed.

The Board was composed of the following gentlemen: Messrs. John McDougald, Commissioner of Customs; Charles C. James, Agricultural Commissioner; Robert H. Coats, formerly Chief Statistician of the Department of Labour, now Dominion Statistician; and J. U. Vincent, Deputy Minister of Inland Revenue.

They are to be heartily congratulated on their achievement.

PRAISE FOR FINANCE.

The officials of the Department of Finance are to be congratulated upon the very handsome way in which they were spoken of in the House of Commons by their Minister, Sir Thomas White. In the course of a discussion in Committee of Supply, the question of a better salary for the Auditor General was suggested by Hon. Mr. Graham. Sir Thomas White took occasion to extend the discussion to the work done by his department generally and to praise them for their devotion to duty and their ability as shown in the special work in connection with the war which that department has carried on. He said:

"I doubt very much if there is a financial institution in this country in which there is greater responsibility devolving upon officials than devolves upon the officials of the Department of Finance. During the past year my deputy minister and my assistant deputy minister—and I am quite sure this is not confined to my department but common to many departments,—have had very heavy responsibilities placed upon their shoulders and have had an immense amount of detail work which could not be handed over to others. I make the general statement that the public officials of my department, since this war has broken out, have been engaged almost day and night, and frequently Sunday and Satur-

day, in the discharge of their duties. The people are not aware of these things and I think they should be aware of them. My sympathies are usually with the civil servants, because it chanced that once I was in municipal employment and I know that very frequently the Civil Service is a target for a good deal of criticism; in some cases, no doubt, just criticism, but in others not well founded. One thing which I have been impressed since I have come to Ottawa—and I think it is my duty to state it publicly—is the willingness with which the members of the Civil Service respond to the demands made upon them. I am speaking only of my own department, but I believe the same is true of all the other departments. In my department the employees have been ready, literally day and night, to carry on their duties; they have never shrunk from any task set before them.

“A year ago last fall I was requested as Minister of Finance to take charge of a very large amount of gold consigned to Ottawa for the credit of the Bank of England. Hon. members and the public generally are not aware, but I am aware, of the enormous amount of work that devolved upon certain of my officials in the periods when that gold was being received and at other periods when it was being sent out. It was work of the most responsible kind, and it was done with the greatest degree of accuracy. I was able not very long ago to send a report to London dealing with the handling of considerably over a hundred million dollars worth of gold which had to be weighed down to fractions of an ounce, and I was able to say that in the handling of that gold there was a variation of the most fractional character. In other words, it was done with as great skill as could have been exercised in connection with such work.

“Let me mention another thing. In addition to the routine work, which has been heavy, and the responsibility which has devolved especially since the outbreak of the war in connection with matters of finance, we have floated, as the House knows, a loan of \$50,000,000, which was afterwards increased to \$100,000,000.

“The securities were in denominations of \$100, \$500 and \$1,000. There were some 25,000 individual subscribers. And, notwithstanding that we made use of the services of some 3,000 branch banks of Canada, an account had to be kept in my department with each subscriber and of the bonds by number. I had some experience in connection with flotations when I was in business life, and I had then as good a staff, I think, as any man in Canada—I always stand by my staff. Yet I do not believe that any financial institution in the Dominion, no matter how great, could have handled that loan any better, in fact I do not think they could have handled it as well as it was handled by the staff of the Finance Department. I am not paying any compliment to myself because I, as minister, simply supervised the issue in a general way; the compliment I am paying is to the staff, and I speak in appreciation of their work in connection with that loan as well as of the energy and the high sense of duty they displayed in the heavy work and responsibility which devolved upon them. I think it only due to the staff and to those in charge of the several branches that I should make this statement. And I have no doubt that ministers in charge of other departments could say the same thing. It is well known that the officials engaged in the Militia Department—to take that as an example—have worked literally night and day, Sunday and Saturday, since the outbreak of this war. Very heavy duties have been thrown

upon these men, and very heavy responsibilities as well. If we were dealing with this matter on a business basis, or even on a basis of common fairness, I think the Government might well consider later on whether it would not be proper, just and fair that some remuneration should be made to these men who have put forth such efforts, and who have so untiringly devoted themselves to their duties since the outbreak of the war. The same thing, I am sure, can be said of other departments. It is not necessary to enlarge upon this further, the point is, that men in charge of many departments of Government have heavy duties and responsibilities. And, in my opinion, they are not overpaid—many of them, I am satisfied, are underpaid. But we are at war. Men are giving up their civil occupations and are going to the front, making great sacrifices for the common cause. Therefore, notwithstanding the undoubted fact that men in many departments of the public service are underpaid for the services which they have performed since the outbreak of the war, it is not regarded as expedient that salaries should be raised at this particular time. I agree with my hon. friend from South Renfrew (Mr. Graham) that the man placed in the high and responsible position of Auditor General should be paid a proper salary. All our salaries in the higher grades of the service are on the basis of a situation that existed many years ago. Some day the situation will have to be revised.”

Behind every man's busy-ness there should be a level of undisturbed serenity and industry, as within the reef encircling a coral island there is always an expanse of still water, where the depositions are going on which will finally raise it above the surface.
—*Thoreau.*

LES “POIL-AUX-PATTES.”

Bon pied, bon œil, le regard vif,
Et le sourire aux commissûres,
Ils ne craignent pas les blessures
Qui leur entreront dans le vif.

Ils iront, à la baïonnette,
Malgré la grêle des obus.
Vers les inattingibles buts;
Mais ils y feront place nette.

Ils culbuteront l'Allemand
Dans la tranchée ou dans la plaine,
Et vaincront sans reprendre haleine,
Quand même, on ne sait trop comment.

Sous les armes, ils ont la Gloire,
Et voient dans les plis du drapeau
Renaître le Petit-Chapeau,
Comme un présage de Victoire.

Le sang fort de la Liberté
Coule dans leurs membres robustes,
Et l'on sent battre sous les bustes,
Dans ces nobles cœurs, la Fierté.

Pour guérir la détresse humaine
Pui clame vers le Ciel: “Je crois!”
Au nom des peuples mis en croix
Ils triompheront. Dieu les mène.

JULES TREMBLAY,
Chambre des Communes.

25 janvier 1916.

CIVIL SERVANTS START 207th.

Two civil servants were the first recruits of the 207th Battalion which was inaugurated in Ottawa last week. Ernest W. Painter, of the Department of Agriculture, 6 feet, 1 inch tall, and John T. Wilson, constable, of the Dominion Police, 5 feet, 11 inches in his sox, were the husky pair who “broke the ice” for “McLean's Athletes.” Both are training for N.C.O.'s.

THE C. S. MUTUAL BENEFIT SOCIETY.

The annual meeting of the above society was held on 31st January last. A very complete statement of the year's operations was presented to the membership, showing the society to be in a most satisfactory condition, which is abundantly set forth in the President's report, the balance sheet and cash statement following.

The society needs no boosting to commend itself to civil servants. The fact that only one member withdrew during last year states concisely what the members themselves think of it.

To the Members of the Civil Service Mutual Benefit Society.

Ladies and Gentlemen,—

In reporting on the proceedings of the society for the year ended 31st December, 1915, the Board of Management are pleased to be able to present so encouraging a statement as that which has already been laid before the members in connection with the notice summoning this meeting. The information there submitted is necessarily voluminous and burdened with a good deal of detail. All this will be found useful for those members who wish to make a critical study of the position of the society. For those, on the other hand, who prefer to take a general view of the same facts in outline, it may be sufficient to point out that—

- (a) The number of new members admitted during the year 1915 was 108 as compared with 51 in the previous year.
- (b) There was but one withdrawal from membership as compared with 16 in the previous year.
- (c) The loss of membership by death in 1915 was 6 as compared with 15 in the previous year.
- (d) The aggregate result of the above was that the society at the close of 1915 comprised a membership of 482 as compared with 381 at the close of the year 1914.
- (e) The actuarial statement shows that after providing for all present liabilities and future risks the present excess of assets amounts to \$2,430.72 as compared with \$2,090.00 shown in the statement submitted one year ago.

Early in the year your Board, taking advantage of the authority given by Section 38 of the Constitution, appointed a committee of three of its members to pass upon all applications for membership and proposals for change of beneficiary. They have also, upon the suggestion of that committee, appointed a regular medical examiner, to whom doubtful cases may be referred for special examination. These improvements in the machinery of the society have effected a much closer and more systematic scrutiny of each case of application for membership. There has also been, for such of the applicants as were considered entirely satisfactory risks, a marked shortening of the time elapsing between application and final acceptance. This committee from the date of its appointment by the Board in March to the close of the year held eleven sittings, and considered 72 applications for membership. Of those 64 were accepted. The remaining 8 were either rejected by the committee for self-evident unfitness or referred to the medical examiner, and failing to obtain his certificate were dropped.

With a membership of nearly 500 and an invested reserve of over \$10,000.00, the society can now look forward with confidence to a successful future. The number of civil servants at Ottawa who are eligible for entrance to membership and might be admitted with safety to the society and benefit to themselves is probably not less than 2,000. These, or the greater part of them, may be brought in if adequate means are used. To this end your Board would earnestly bespeak from all the present members of the society a season of active canvassing, and from our successors, the incoming Board, a campaign of publicity.

W. J. LYNCH,
Secretary.
A. G. KINGSTON,
Chairman.

To act with common sense according to the moment is the best wisdom I know; and the best philosophy is to do one's duties, take the world as it comes, submit respectfully to one's lot; bless the goodness that has given us so much happiness with it, whatever it is; and despise affectation.—*Walpole*.

A nation's welfare depends on its ability to master the world; that on its power of work; and that on its power of thought.—*Theodore Parker*.

STATEMENT

For the year ending 31 December, 1915.

I.—BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS		LIABILITIES	
Bonds and debentures, (value Dom. Gov. Standard for Ins. Co's.	\$10,189.50	Liability to members on account of death benefits, calculated on N. F. C. 4% basis.	\$7,474.00
ASSESSMENTS OVERDUE:—		DEATH BENEFITS PAYABLE:—	
Monthly.....	\$41.63	Beneficiary of Geo. Smith....	200.00
Annual.....	.56		
	42.19	Payable on Dom. Gov. bonds par value \$1,500.	1,312.50
Entrance fees overdue.....	5.00	OTHER LIABILITIES:—	
Interest accrued on bonds and debentures.....	133.18	Printing.....	40.50
CASH:—		Excess of assets over liabilities..	2,430.72
In bank.....	\$ 1,068.95		
On hand.....	18.90		
	1,087.85		
Total.....	\$11,457.72	Total.....	\$11,457.72

II.—CASH STATEMENT

RECEIPTS		DISBURSEMENTS	
Cash balance, 31 Dec., 1914.....	\$194.07	To beneficiaries of deceased mem- bers.	\$1,100.00
ASSESSMENTS:—		Expenses of Management, Sec. VI	141.50
Monthly.....	\$2,430.26	PURCHASE OF BONDS:—	
Annual.....	179.27	Price Paid.....	\$1,089.99
	2,609.53	Accrued Interest... ..	3.47
Entrance fees.....	180.00		1,093.46
INTEREST:—		REFUNDS:—	
On bonds and deb's	\$429.73	Assessments.....	\$ 12.22
On deposits.....	21.70	Entrance fees.....	none
	451.43		12.22
		BALANCE 31 Dec., 1915:—	
		Cash in bank.....	\$1,068.95
		Cash in hand.....	18.90
			1,087.85
Total receipts.....	\$3,435.03	Total disbursements	\$3,435.03

CO-OPERATIVE NOTES.

A civil servant was approached the other day by one of the directors of the Co-operative Supply Association soliciting his membership. The reply received was: If you can sell to me for thirty per cent. cheaper than I can buy elsewhere, I will deal with you. The director retorted: Then you never will.

This civil servant evidently labours under a great misapprehension as to the amount that is added to the cost of food commodities in order to carry on business. There are but very few lines,—and these are principally known as fancy goods,—where thirty per cent. is added to wholesale cost to arrive at the selling price. The majority of lines handled by grocery establishments carry twenty or twenty-five per cent. added to cost to cover expense of retail distribution and provide a moderate profit. There are many lines, such as sugar, butter, flour, etc., where less even than twenty per cent. can be added, so keen is competition; and the larger profits on the fancy lines only equalize the losses on the staples mentioned. It will be seen, therefore, that it is absurd to ask for a selling price of 30 per cent. cheaper than other stores sell at. The Co-operative secures the bulk of its supplies from the same sources as other merchants, and must approximate their prices. Until the co-operative movement becomes strong enough to purchase in such quantities that it can secure unusual price concessions, or until it can establish its own wholesale society, no very marked saving can be brought about. The average dividend in Great Britain with the powerful wholesale societies is from ten to twelve per cent. on purchases; in Canada the highest paid by any society so far has been eight per cent.

What the Civil Service Co-operative does offer its membership is a

return of 6 per cent. on the capital they invest to purchase their supplies; the return of surplus over expense of distribution as a purchase dividend, and the opportunity to secure valuable price reductions by buying in quantities in the bulk department. This bulk department, by the way, is only in its infancy, and will be very largely extended in the near future. It also places the resources of the Co-operative Wholesale Society, Manchester, at the disposal of members who wish to import haberdashery, woollens, dress goods, linens, etc., direct.

Arrangements are under way to completely renovate and enlarge the O'Connor street premises of the Co-operative Supply Association. The work is to be proceeded with at once, and when completed the association will have at this stand two modern stores that will be a credit to the large enterprise the association has grown to be. The Glebe store interior has been re-arranged during the past few months, and it is now much more roomy and attractive.

Messrs. F. C. Nunnick and T. V. Doyle, members of the Committee on Co-operation of the Civil Service Association, had a conference with Mr. E. D. Eddy, chairman of the Trading Committee of the Co-operative Association, and Mr. Thurlow, the manager. A valuable entente was established which will yield good results.

An enquiry as to the workings of the Civil Service Co-operative Supply Association from Prof. C. B. Sissons, of Victoria University, was forwarded by Mr. Carl Engler to the officers of the association. Certain data was sent to Prof. Sissons, and in his acknowledgement he says that mention was made of our association in his address before the convention of the United Farmers of Ontario, which has a co-operative buying and distributing organization affiliated

with it. From the local co-operative standpoint, the progress of the United Farmers of Ontario is one of the most hopeful features on the horizon.

CUSTOMS ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of the Ottawa Customs Association was held at the long room on Friday, Jan. 14, 1916. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: Hon. President, F. M. Journeaux; Hon. Vice-President, Chas. Whittier; President, F. Lapointe; Vice-President, T. Burns; Secretary, Geo. E. Booth; Treasurer, W. J. Fairbairn; Auditors, Chas. Whittier and F. Kehoe.

The annual euchre and banquet was held Wednesday, Feb. 2nd, at the 43rd Sergeants' messrooms. Mr. Buckman, U.S.A. Customs, won first prize, and Mr. T. Taylor second prize in the euchre games. Mr. C. E. Driscoll contributed a song to the musical programme. The affair as a whole was regarded as a success. The committee in charge included Jos. McCullough, J. B. Potvin, T. Taylor, W. Sproule, W. J. Fairbairn and the President, Mr. F. Lapointe.

IN BRITAIN, ALL ARE HELPING.

The following letter was written by a civil servant, a girl of twenty-three, to a relative in Ottawa.

She is a busy worker in the Post Office, but finds time to help in war work. Two sisters are also helping in spare time; a third is a nurse; her father is in the Munitions Department; and her two brothers and a number of cousins are fighting, or training to fight, on land or water.

We hear of delay, criticism, labor troubles, etc., but do not let us forget the concentration of the whole people, the mobilization of all the

forces of the Empire—moral and material,—the “speeding up” in every direction.

It is simply marvellous, and time and its results will demonstrate the wonder of it.

London.

Dear _____

The letter I began last week was written from the canteen, where I usually work on Monday nights, on paper headed “Y.M.C.A. with the Munition Workers.” I belong to the Women's Volunteer Reserve. We do any kind of war work that happens to want doing, in our spare time. We have to take an oath like the soldiers, and wear a khaki uniform with puttees and a tunic. The canteens are our most important job just at present. They are run by the Y.M.C.A., but we do most of the work. The one I go to is at Woolwich, just outside the arsenal, and we have 500 or 600 soldiers and munition workers in every night. Twenty of us go down about seven o'clock p.m. and lay tables, serve, and wash up until about 10.30 when we have a rest for about an hour and three-quarters. At one o'clock a.m. the night workers come in for their dinners, and from then until half past three we are pretty busy. They have to be back in the arsenal by two o'clock, but the washing up and clearing away takes ages. When we've finished we lie in deck chairs with rugs round us until it's time to catch the six o'clock train up to town. I have time to come home to breakfast before business, but everyone is not so lucky. We are working from 9 a.m. till 8 p.m. at the office, but I thoroughly enjoy the canteen work, and shall go on if I possibly can. Our corps has also charge of two hospitals for wounded soldiers in London, I believe, although I have not been called upon for them yet; and last Thursday we were asked to volunteer for motor driving in France. I would love to go, but cannot get leave from the office. One of our colonels is nursing in Serbia, and about sixty of our girls are acting as army cooks at the front. I am awfully proud of my corps, you know. Besides all this, we learn signalling, telegraphy, soldiers' drill, first-aid, and carpentry if we like.

Yours,

A little premature authority has spoiled some good men.

B. C. MAIL CLERKS' ASSN.

Meeting called to order at 3.15 p.m. by J. A. McLeod, President, and turned over by him to J. W. Watson, President-elect. The following officers were present: J. W. Watson, President; G. H. Burton, Vice-President; H. F. Hatt, Secretary-Treasurer; J. H. Menzies, Assistant Secretary.

Mr. Watson, as chairman of the committee appointed to purchase Mr. MacLeod's present, reported that instructions had been carried out and the gift presented.

A reply from D. M. Darvie to a letter expressing the sympathy of the association for his misfortune was read. He stated that he expected to get back to the firing line about February or March.

A reply from the superintendent to a letter re heating apparatus of mail cars was read, in which he stated that our complaint was being referred to General Supt. Peters of the C.P.R., and that he would advise us of the action taken. No further action has been taken thus far.

A reply from the superintendent to a letter accompanying the snuff box with which he was presented was read. He expressed his gratification for not only the useful gift, but for the sentiment conveyed, and trusted that nothing would occur to interrupt the cordial relations existing between the staff and himself at the present time.

Moved by Mr. Herbert, seconded by Mr. Burton, that Mr. Green be instructed to bring up the matter of the guarantee fund at the next Fed. meeting in an effort to get a definite ruling as to what this fund is being used for. This in connection with the Dom. Postal Clerks' Association.—Carried.

Moved by Mr. McNames, seconded by Mr. McLeod, that a report of meetings be forwarded to the editor

of *The Civilian* by the Assistant Secretary.—Carried.

Moved by Mr. McLeod, seconded by Mr. Felix, that all railway mail clerks who have never been members of this association be forwarded an application form.—Carried.

Moved by Mr. McLeod, seconded by Mr. Felix, that this association write the superintendent further protesting the running of steel cars directly behind wooden mail cars.—Carried.

Moved by Mr. Hatt, seconded by Mr. Willis, that as this association has several important matters to bring up which can best be taken up by the Federation as a whole, and as a Federation meeting has not

**Royal Naval College of Canada.**

THE next examination for the entry of Naval Cadets will be held at the examination centres of the Civil Service Commission in May, 1916, successful candidates joining the College on or about 1st August. Applications for entry will be received up to 15th April by the Secretary, Civil Service Commission, Ottawa, from whom blank entry forms can now be obtained.

Candidates for the examination in May next must be between the ages of fourteen and sixteen on the 1st July, 1916.

The scheme of training at the College is based on that in force in the English Naval Colleges at Osborne and Dartmouth, but it is not compulsory for cadets to follow a Naval Career when they have completed the course, which lasts three years. McGill and Toronto Universities allow the College course to count as one year at the Science School. The Admiralty will take a maximum of 8 cadets annually into the Royal Navy, where the pay and prospects would be identical with that of cadets who have passed into the Navy from Osborne and Dartmouth.

Further details can be obtained on application to the undersigned.

G. J. DESBARATS,

Deputy Minister of the Naval Service,
Department of the Naval Service,
Ottawa, January 11th, 1916.

Unauthorized publication of this advertisement will not be paid for.—90794.

Montreal SHIRT and OVERALL	
COMPANY	MANUFACTURERS OF
LIMITED	SHIRTS
MONTREAL, P. Q.	OVERALLS
	AND PANTS

been held for more than a year, that this association recommend that a meeting be held in the near future.—Carried.

H. F. HATT,
Secretary-Treasurer.

C. S. COMMISSIONERS' CONVENTION.

Washington, D.C., Feb. 10.—Hon. John T. Doyle, secretary of the U. S. Civil Service Commission, has issued the following notice as secretary-treasurer of National Assembly of Civil Service Commissioners:

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF CIVIL
SERVICE COMMISSIONS,
1724 F Street, N. W.,

Washington, D.C., Feb. 10, 1916.

My Dear Sir,—

The ninth meeting of the National Assembly of Civil Service Commissions will be held at Ottawa, Canada, Wednesday to Friday, June 14-16, 1916, affording a rare opportunity to study the Canadian Civil Service System and its bearing upon municipal conditions in the United States.

At these annual meetings, problems connected with the administration of the different Civil Service Commissions are discussed by experienced men, and through the interchange of views, better and more practical methods are possible. The different commissions are invited to present problems in administration in respect to which they desire the benefit of the experience of other commissions and thus promote the interchange of information.

It is proposed at the meeting that the commissions contribute literature illustrative of their work, and it is hoped that your commission will make such a contribution.

It is expected that reports will be submitted from special committees on the following subjects:

Efficiency Records and Readings and Their Use. Thomas C. Murray, New York, chairman.

Superannuation. William Foran, Ottawa, Canada, chairman.

Co-operation Among Christians on Examination Standards. F. E. Doty, Los Angeles, Cal., chairman.

The Model Civil Service Law. John T. Doyle, Washington, D.C., chairman.

Inasmuch as this is the first time that the Assembly meets in Canada, it is hoped that the attendance will be a large and representative one, and it is, therefore, earnestly desired that your commission should send delegates. A most enjoyable time is promised by our Canadian friends to all who attend. There will be no expense other than for traveling and hotel bills. If necessary, bring the matter to the attention of the proper authorities to secure appropriation sufficient to permit your commission to be represented and for the payment of the fee of membership.

A bill is inclosed to cover membership fee of the commissioners, officers and employees of your commission. Very respectfully,

WILLIAM FORAN,
Committee on Campaign.

JOHN T. DOYLE,
Secretary-Treasurer.

Athletics.

Tom Longboat has enlisted.

The "Sportsmen's" Battalion of Toronto recruits faster than any other corps.

The "Tigers" Battalion of Hamilton is enrolling the former wearers of the yellow and black and their supporters in large numbers. There will be "doings" in the trenches when the Tigers buck the German line.

A strong effort will be made to make up a company of the 207th Ottawa Battalion with athletes and fans. Previous efforts along the same line have resulted in failures. Ottawa sports will now have another chance.

Sergt. W. G. Ross, of the Canadian Army Postal Corps, wants to transfer into an infantry battalion so that he may do some damage to the Huns. "Bill" is known as a ski-jumper and a paddler with the Britannia R. C.

The Toronto Sportsmen's Battalion held an assault-at-arms to aid recruiting on February 14th. So many athletes "took the shilling" that the total enlistments in the Queen City that day were 574.

Joining in the amusements of others is, in our social state, the next thing to sympathy in their distresses, and even to the slenderest bond that holds society together should rather be strengthened than snapt.—*Landor.*

Personals.

Appointments.

Agriculture Dept.—Douglas S. Cole, Div. 2B at \$1,300; Beryl G. McElhinney, Div. 3B; Harry Stewart, packer.

Customs Dept.—F. W. Dunn, prev. officer, Bridgeburg, Ont.; G. L. Bush, prev. officer, Guelph.

Finance Dept.—Dorothy R. Gamble, Div. 3B; Rena A. Howe, Div. 3B; Janet M. Watson, Div. 3B.

Indian Affairs—H. J. Bury, Div. 2A.

Inland Revenue—Clodomir Lamy, asst. insp., Sherbrooke; Ernest Dubord, asst. insp., Three Rivers; F. E. Howe, asst. insp., Toronto; Emile Carette, asst. insp., Three Rivers; Andrew Porter, asst. insp., London; Leon Hardy, excise officer, Quebec; W. R. Thomas, excise officer, London; W. A. C. Lindsay, excise officer, London; J. R. Songhurst, excise officer, Toronto; W. I. Cole, excise officer, Belleville; A. B. Lambe, Div. 1B.

Interior Dept.—T. C. Henderson, Div. 2B; W. J. F. Pratt, Div. 2B; Geo. Arbie, Div. 2B; Ann J. Foster, Div. 3B; Marian O. Truman, Div. 3B; Jessie G. McCuaig, Div. 3B; Emma M. Bebb, Div. 3B; J. A. R. Latendresse, Div. 3B; F. G. Acres, Div. 3B; H. O. Bompas, Div. 3B.

Library of Parliament—Napoleon Aubry, housekeeper.

Militia and Defence—James C. Gillespie, Div. 3B; Muriel E. Albright, Div. 3B.

Mines Dept.—Victor F. Murray, Div. 2A.

Naval Service—Ovila Ratier, Div. 3B.

Secretary of State—D. J. Shuttleworth, Div. 3B.

Post Office Dept.—Paul Dupre, Class 3B, Quebec; Miss M. E. Fenwick, Class 3B, Toronto; Miss A. Juneau, Class 3B, Montreal; Miss M. Bureau, Class 3B, Quebec; Mrs. M. P. Fiset, Class 3B, Quebec; Joseph W. Chamberland, Class 3B, Quebec; Inez Valinsky, Class 3B, Montreal; C. H. Lavigne, Class 3B, Montreal; Theodore Rose, Class 3B, Montreal; J. G. W. St. Hilaire, Class 3B, Montreal; Alfred Houlzet, Class 3B, Montreal; Adrienne Maillet, Class 3B, Montreal; Egide Gingras, Class 3B, Montreal; J. B. Mongenais, Class 3B, Montreal; Simon Richard, Class 3B, Montreal; Henriette Beauvais, Class 3B, Montreal; Antoine Sabourin, Class 3B, Montreal; Rodolphe Bergeron, Class 3B, Montreal; Jules Ste. Marie, Class 3B, Montreal; Lorenzo Bedard, Class 3B, Montreal; Blanche Sirois, Class 3B, Montreal; William J. Dodd, Class 3B, North Bay; Jean L. Rouilliard, Class 3B, Montreal; Harry A. Murphy, Class 3B, Saskatoon; Miss O. B. Stewart, Class 3B, Vancouver; Miss M. L. B. Beaudry, Class 3B, Quebec; Domi-

nique Pelletier, Class 3B, Montreal; J. O. Barron, Class 3B, Toronto; Mrs. A. M. Hunter, Class 3B, Money Order Ex. Of.; Miss Cecile Faulkner, Class 3B, Ottawa; Rene C. Lariviere, Class 3B, Montreal; Miss Marie Blanch Collin, Class 3B, Quebec; G. F. Lynch, Class 3B, Peterboro; Miss E. Hillocks, Class 3B, Calgary; C. W. McLean, Class 3B, Vancouver; E. C. Hughes, Class 3B, Edmonton; G. L. Flint, Class 3B, Toronto; Jos. O. Martin, Class 3B, Montreal; Samuel Black, Class 3B, Toronto; Miss M. T. McCall, Class 3A, Montreal; Wilfrid Lajoie, Class 3A, Ottawa; Henry, Tasse, messenger, D. Dept.; Mary E. Fahey, sorter, D. Dept.; A. F. Johnson, Div. 3B; Jos. E. Page, Div. 3B; Martina E. Keilty, Div. 3B; Jas. A. Macdonald, Div. 3B; J. A. E. Reeves, Div. 3B; Marie C. I. Guenette, Div. 3B.

Promotions.

Agriculture Dept.—A. E. MacRae to Div. 2A; Miss A. G. Monaghan to Div. 2B.

Auditor General's Office—Nellie Rigby to Div. 3A.

Conservation Commission—Olive E. Morris to Div. 3A.

Inland Revenue—A. Uffelman to 1st Class, Guelph; L. P. Whitehead to 1st Class, London; E. McNally to 1st Class, Prescott; C. Granton to 1st Class, Prescott; J. R. Filteau to 1st Class, Quebec.

Interior—T. S. Heaslip to Div. 3A.

Public Works—H. Desjardins to Div. 3A.

Post Office Dept.—M. E. O'Leary, Toronto, to Class 2B. The following to Class 2B, Winnipeg: W. D. Sawney, C. Pettypiece, F. R. Sutton, W. Murdock, J. T. Bowie, J. L. Parsons, Jas. Johnson, F. H. Field, J. E. Morton, C. J. Irlam, S. Bowman, H. G. Ganly, A. Osovsky, H. A. Lonsdale, J. H. Brooks, A. Y. Anderson, F. J. Perry, H. N. Phillips, T. A. W. Irle, W. H. Saunders, H. A. Pinniger, R. E. McLeod, S. Newton, C. M. Welbanks, J. Cuthbert, R. S. Cox. F. X. A. A. Poulin to Class 2B, Quebec. The following to Class 2A, Toronto: J. J. O'Connor, J. J. Kelly, W. B. Culross, W. J. Layter, E. M. Stewart, T. Cauldwell, G. M. Ross, J. Clarkson, W. J. Regan, W. Christie, G. F. Millner, A. G. Forsyth, W. F. Ryan, J. Dowling, G. M. Boland, T. R. B. Donaldson, J. F. Bond, A. T. L. Wilson, J. M. Pretty, F. Graham. The following to Class 2B, Montreal: W. J. Crowe, E. O. H. Lacroix, J. A. Bourgeault, J. A. Paquette, L. L'Abbe, P. C. Beaudry, J. Valiquette, Jr., C. Hart, R. P. Murray, J. Bracken, A. Charland, J. Malo, A. Dubuc, W. Hudon, J. H. Prevost, J. F. Verville, S. Charbonneau, D. G. Couture, N. Archambault, A. Sarazin, Geo. Dubuc, L. Germain, E. Martin, H. Gagnon, H. Dupuis, E. J. Carriere, M. O'Farrell, L. Cou-

lombe, C. Bolte, V. Lemieux, E. Daoust, A. F. Menard, A. S. Walker, A. Panneton, A. Girouard, L. Valois, N. Dragon, L. LeBrun, J. McDonough, A. Loiseau, L. J. LaBonte, O. Briere, M. J. Burns, Victor Morin, L. R. Theoret, J. J. E. Bibaud, J. A. Campoux, A. Bissonette, E. Levesque, A. Fafard, Jos. Leduc, Ulric Girard, Aristide Girard, Alf. Gauthier, J. P. Moreau, Auguste Fauget, C. F. X. Dupuis, J. W. Morin, M. J. B. Simard, J. M. Richard. Miss Lillian Greenfield to Class 2B, Vancouver; Lionel Rondeau to Class 2B, Montreal; H. E. Rochon to Class 2B, Ottawa; F. R. Sparks to Class 2B, Ottawa; R. H. Brisson to Class 2B, Ottawa; A. C. Layeux to Class 2B, Ottawa; W. A. Dorion to Class 2B, Ottawa; J. F. A. Beauchamp to Class 2A, Quebec; J. R. Crochetiere to Class 2B, Montreal.

Superannuations.

Agriculture Dept.—Arthur E. Powell, Div. 1B; F. C. Chittick, Div. 1A.

Interior Dept.—J. M. McGovern, immigration inspector, Port Arthur.

Resignations.

Customs Dept.—W. W. Learned, prev. off., Abercorn, Que.; C. H. Irwin, prev. off., Woodstock; F. T. Rosebough, prev. off., Toronto; P. E. Netten, prev. off., Montreal; J. B. Naylor, prev. off., Halifax; Thos. Lynch, prev. off., Halifax; A. J. Crosby, prev. off., Halifax; J. H. McMurray, clerk, Toronto; Allan Bowman, sub-collector, Preston; A. R. Wellington, prev. off., Port Arthur.

Inland Revenue Dept.—A. Papineau, Couture, assist. analyst.

Militia and Defence—A. Lewis, Div. 3B.

Post Office—Gustave Jobidon, Class 3B, Quebec.

Public Works Dept.—Geo. E. Mabaut, Div. 2A.

Railways and Canals—H. D. Bishop, Div. 3A.

Transfers.

Interior Dept.—Miss M. J. Kern from the Outside Service, Manitoba, to the Inside Service; Miss M. E. A. Brown from the Inside to Outside Service, Winnipeg.

Public Works—Miss L. DuPlessis from Inside to Outside Service, Montreal.

Marine and Fisheries—Stephen Wallace from Inside to Outside.

General.

Walter Todd, President of the Civil Service Association of Ottawa, has been indisposed since the Parliament Buildings fire as a result of his labours and exposure while engaged in rescuing the treasures of the Senate chamber from the flames.

Norman D. Johnson, B.A., sub-trade commissioner, Department of Trade and Com-

merce, was married on February 22nd by Rev. Wm. Sparling, D.D., to Madge Rainsford, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. E. D. Chubbock.

B. M. Northrop, superintendent of the Staff Branch, Post Office Department, is taking a rest in the Southern States.

W. J. Beatty, of the Post Office Department, is around again after being laid up with a broken arm.

Obituary.

Mrs. F. W. Dawson, who died on February 22nd, aged 65 years, was the mother of R. J. Dawson of the Topographical Surveys Branch.

Alfred F. Wallis, of the Department of Customs, died on February 19th in Woodstock, Ont., aged thirty-six years. Mr. Wallis entered the Customs Service in 1904 and was transferred to Ottawa in 1906. For some months past he had been doing special work at different parts in Ontario. He was unmarried.

F. R. E. Campeau died on February 23rd at his home in Ottawa, aged seventy-one years. He was born in Quebec, but came to Ottawa in 1860. For forty years he was a member of the Civil Service, and when he superannuated in 1911 he was accountant of the Department of Inland Revenue. A Campeau, of the Customs, is a son. The widow and two daughters also survive. Deceased had served in the Ottawa City Council and Separate School Board, and was prominent in many fraternal organizations. The late Pope Leo created him a Knight of the Holy Sepulchre. He was a charter member of the Civil Service Mutual Benefit Society, served for some time on its board of management, and was a worker in its interests for two score years.

Mr. W. H. Jones (Harry), a member of the Post Office Department Mutual Benefit Association, died on the 15th February, 1916. The late Mr. Jones was in his 21st year and had been employed in the P. O. Department but two years, for a year and a half in the Postal Stores Branch and later in the Missing Letter Division of the Secretary's Branch of the Department. He was a son of Mr. Joseph H. Jones of the Postal Stores Branch. Harry was an estimable young man and liked by everybody. His funeral was largely attended, the floral tributes to his memory being many.

In proportion as our own mind is enlarged we discover a greater number of men of originality. Common-place people see no difference between one man and another,—*Pascal*.

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THE POSTAL JOURNAL

VOL. I.

MARCH 3, 1916

No. 11

*Edited under the auspices of
The Postal Clerks' Association of the Dominion of Canada.*

Executive Board of the Postal Clerks' Association.

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The Association Aims.

1. To obtain for all Post Office clerks one day in each week for a day of rest.
2. To impress upon the Government our desire that eight hours shall constitute a day's work, such eight hours to be completed within twelve hours and to consist of not more than two attendances.
3. That seven hours constitute a day's work between the hours of 10 p.m. and 7 a.m.
4. To obtain time off for all overtime worked or payment in lieu thereof.
5. To secure equal conditions for all Post Office clerks, whether employed in semi-staff or city offices.
6. To abolish, by any and every means in its power, the patronage system, at the same time bringing all possible pressure to bear upon the Government in order to obtain the adoption of the merit system throughout the entire Civil Service.
7. To secure, as a reward for merit and long and faithful service, the higher positions in the Postal Service, knowing that such positions can be filled more advantageously from the rank and file of the service than by the appointment of individuals having no knowledge of Postal work.
8. To stimulate and foster organization among Post Office clerks, believing, as we do, that by this method only is it possible to obtain justice at the hands of the Department and equal rights for all.

All correspondence, matter for publication, etc., should be addressed to the Editor, A. Venables, Calgary, Alberta.

THERE'S A MORAL TO IT.

Our General Secretary is at present in correspondence with the Postmaster General upon the question of delayed increases to clerks in the semi-staff offices. It is an extraordinary thing that in this matter we have no basis to work upon, as clerks in semi-staff offices do not come under either the Civil Service or the Post Office Acts—at least, so we understand. Of course, when you work in a city office and you do come within the workings of these Acts, it doesn't necessarily follow that you are going to get all that you

figure you're entitled to. However, the point that we cannot possibly understand is why the clerks in the smaller offices are outside the scope of these laws when letter carriers at the same offices are on the Post Office staff and are governed by these Acts. Nevertheless, although we are unable to comprehend the point from the Department's view, we believe that it is not very hard to find the secret which solves the question as to how this state of affairs comes about. The letter carriers, from coast to coast, are thoroughly organized into one big business association. There's a moral, plain to see.

PURELY PERSONAL.

The Alberta Vice-President of this association, Mr. E. H. Mitchell, was married to Miss Carol Jeanette Ferguson on Feb. 2nd. The Rev. Canon Boyd performed the ceremony at St. Faith's church, Edmonton. The whole association will join in wishing Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell a long and happy married life. Although Mr. Mitchell is a member of the Edmonton office, M.O.B., he is known both in Vancouver and Calgary. He attended convention in the former city last year.

Mr. H. F. Taylor, one time member of the M.O.B. in the Winnipeg and also the Calgary office, has received a commission in His Majesty's Overseas Forces.

NOTES BY THE WAY.

We ran across this in the "Union Postal Clerk": 'Organizations too often commit the common error of neglecting their friends in order to more sedulously cultivate their enemies.' We cannot help thinking that this applies to our own association to some considerable extent.

Early last year the Postmaster General of the United Kingdom told a meeting in Bristol that a soldier had advertised in the papers that he was very lonely and invited correspondence. Three days later the P. O. Department delivered to this man in the trenches 3,000 letters, six bags of small parcels and 90 parcels each over 11 pounds.

We have recently been reading part of the cross-examination of the First Assistant Postmaster General of the United States by the Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads of the House of Representatives. Several members of the committee appear to have been quite as conversant with postal affairs as the assistant P.M.G. himself, and all their efforts were bent on getting justice and reasonable conditions for the postal clerks and carriers.

This once again shows quite plainly what an organized service can accomplish as it can hardly be thought that these politicians would be interesting themselves to this extent unless they believed that it was to their advantage to do so.

Now is the time for branches to be drafting any resolutions that they may have to put before the next convention of our association. These should be sent to the General Secretary at as early a date as possible.

If you can't see any branch notes from your office in this issue, it's too bad we're very sorry, but it's not our fault. If you

didn't see any in the last issue either, it's time to find out what's wrong. Bring the matter up at your next meeting and find out who's asleep.

Have all our branches got sick visiting committees? If you haven't you should have. One of the best propositions is to change the personal of your committee each month.

Is anything the matter up in Saskatoon? We don't seem to remember having heard that the post office in that city has been closed.

We hardly think that during the war any Royal Commission is likely to meet on the question of patronage in this Service. Nevertheless, one day such a thing is bound to come, it's the only logical way out of the present ever increasingly serious state of affairs. May the day be soon and the Postal Clerks' Association has nothing to fear from such a body.

Calgary is receiving quite a number of inquiries as to the working of their Mutual Aid Society. It looks, therefore, as if this will be one of the matters which the next convention will be asked to discuss. Such a scheme should be run just as widely as our other organization.

It may be refreshing to many to hear that the Calgary local, at their February meeting, sat from 7.30 until 11.40 without a let up in animated discussion. The meeting was very well attended and a suggestion that the house adjourn for 10 minutes for refreshments during the evening was most unwelcomely received. If the last suburban cars had been at 3 a.m. instead of at midnight, it is probable that everyone present would have remained another three hours. Going some!!!

How many of the clerks in the offices of Post Office Inspectors and Railway Mail Superintendents are aware of the fact that they are eligible to membership in this association. Our constitution provides for everyone designated by the department as a clerk, and as we are all manning the same ship we want your help in setting our course. This is a direct invitation from the Executive Committee of the Association. We want you to join us. There is a branch in your city who will be glad to receive your application, and your interests will be looked after in every possible way. Branch secretaries will gladly supply information to intending members.

We must be rising in the public estimation. In making an enquiry for a missing parcel, the sender stated that "it was handed to the 'gentleman' at the parcel wicket." Such candour is quite refreshing these days.

A propos of the recent order regarding the necessity of using as little artificial

light as possible, we know of one office at least where all the sorting, despatching and receiving of mails is performed under electric light 24 hours each day and 365 days in the year. It is surprising that the Department of Public Works should so arrange to make it necessary this be paid for, when daylight can be had for nothing.

Those words of Sir George Foster, printed elsewhere, spoken by one of the present Government's own ministers, and by one with the experience of 34 years' public life, are words with a great weight behind them. Sir George sums the whole matter up in those few words, not one of which is wasted. The oftener you read those three sentences, the deeper you will see that they go.

BRANCH NOTES.

Calgary.

The monthly meeting of this branch, which was unavoidably postponed for a week owing to sickness of officers, was one of the best attended for several months. There was such a lot of necessary business to be got through that the entertainment committee was nearly pushed out of the picture altogether. However, they managed to provide a good line of refreshments, thanks to the splendid contributions from some of our members. The social end of the evening's meeting had to be abandoned as the business was not completed when the adjournment time came.

Fortunately for you, Teddy, there were lots of refreshments left when you arrived, but come earlier next time and take no chances.

During an exciting debate, how many eccles cakes did you eat, Octavius!

That it was necessary for your wife to bring the cakes up personally look 'fishy' to us, Francis.

Shake, Alec!!! Congratulations, but you should have remembered that these are war times.

As we're not quite sure whether you're peeved already or not, we leave you out this time, Rowlie.

Edmonton.

Our February meeting was a very successful one, the attendance being well above the average and the usual concert after proved an added incentive to the better attendance at our meetings.

We are about to organize a Mutual Aid Society in connection with this branch, and the interest which has been centered around this endeavour suggests a successful future for the enterprise.

The monthly concert proved a decided success in every particular. We had as guests of the evening the Edmonton branch, Letter Carriers' Association.

Mr. George Grant, President of the Carriers' branch, in an eloquent address, spoke of the wonderful power of music as a means of producing comradeship, brotherliness and unity. He emphasized the fact that the arts, when used along the right lines, were the ideal medium for social and fraternal gatherings.

We were very pleased to see our South Side members put in an appearance and hope to have a larger attendance from Strathcona in the future.

Prince Albert.

Deep snow and cold weather recently caused a tie up in traffic coming into this place. Trains were running anything up to 48 hours late.

Since our last notes we have met three teams in the Whist Club. Adhering to their promise, our boys turned the tables somewhat, early in the month, when they beat the Thistles by 14 to 11.

Jack Oliver exhibited a rare piece of strategy; listen. He handed cigars to his partners and opponents at the commencement of the game, as, he explained, it takes the wind out of 'em and then you just step right in on 'em. The secret is, it appears, he keeps two brands. It was amusing to see the opponents puffing like steam engines.

The match that was considered a sure walk-over for the municipal clerks resulted in an even score of 10 each.

On the 14th we had the Sons of England as visitors in a City League match, and only trounced them by a score of 15 to 8. This is very significant in view of the fact that the P. O. boys were again considered an easy mark.

It might be as well if the captain would see to a sufficient supply of cards being available prior to the commencement of the games. Whist players should read "Tommy Deadeye's" book entitled "Whist Wireless."

FOUND—A shirt. Will the owner kindly send the buttons. Address F.P., P.O., Prince Albert.

"Dock" appears to have been in a windstorm by the look of his face, but then frozen moustaches are a serious bar when one is in love, very distasteful to the lady.

How about Guide classes here?

Seven hundred and thirty-seven million letters and post cards were mailed in Canada last year.

A ROYAL COMMISSION FOR THE POST OFFICE?

Postal clerks, and indeed the entire Civil Service, will realize that the Dominion has a true countryman and the Service a real friend in the member for Halifax, Mr. A. K. MacLean. His criticism of the patronage evil, much of which was upheld by the Hon. Geo. Foster, was very much to the point. Both these members of the House are disinterested enough to say that which many others know to be the case, viz., that the condition of affairs in this regard is very disgraceful and very serious. The man in the everyday walk of life knows something of this, too, but we are of the opinion that it is the man in the Service, provided he is also an intelligent, loyal and interested member of the community, who is in a better position to see these things than either the members who have no use for the patronage business or the man in the street. It is the man in the Service, the man whose actual life it affects, the man who gets pushed this way and that by its unjust force, who sees the whole question in its true light. These men can see the cruel injustice which the system allows to go on without any opportunity for appeal, the shameful abuse of power and the shocking inefficiency that is permitted to exist as a result of this diabolical patronage system. If the suggestion made by Mr. MacLean that a Royal Commission be appointed, should be permitted to materialize, we believe that it would be one of the greatest blessings that this Dominion of ours has ever had and the greatest that the Civil Service is ever likely to know.

REGINA WHISPERS.

Hello, everybody; we are not dead, but a touch of gripe and preparation for the Guide exam. have kept us quiet for a while.

* * *

"The Guide exams.; the Guide exams.;
"They are the cause of many ———
(Censored).

* * *

What percentage do you think you've got? I guess that you're wrong in your thinking. Never mind, wait and see.

* * *

The Moose Jaw Branch favoured us with a visit on January 15th, and we believe that they had a good time. Anyhow, the crowd round the table was a happy one. There were only two toasts for Saskatchewan is dry, but they were good ones.

Mr. J. T. Smith proposed "The King," and Mr. E. Senior "Our Fellow Members in Uniform, Here and at the Front." After the toasts, Mr. White, President of the Moose Jaw Branch, spoke and expressed his pleasure in being present, stating that he believed these inter-branch meetings did real good in cementing the friendly spirit among branches. Mr. Bell of Moose Jaw also spoke, seconding Mr. White's sentiments of approval and touching upon several questions of interest to the clerks, particularly the questions of holiday work, overtime, a mutual benefit society, and the convention. After this everybody began to feel more confident, and speeches followed from nearly all present.

Like all good things the meeting had to come to an end, but not before everyone present had voted it a huge success, and the hope was expressed that another joint meeting be held at an early date.

These joint meetings are splendid for the exchanging of ideas, the promotion of the real association spirit between branches, and the discussion of various questions of interest and importance to members. We recommend such branches as are within visiting distance of each other to try a joint meeting as an experiment. Get to know the fellows of the other branches, and you will find that your interest in them, their interest in you, and joint interest in the association and its work greatly stimulated.

* * *

The general monthly meeting of the Regina Branch was held on Jan. 16th, but owing to non-attendance caused through enlistment and sickness, the number of members present was not up to the average.

A hearty vote of thanks was extended to the committee who had so successfully handled the banquet tendered to the Moose Jaw Branch on the occasion of their visit.

Treasurer A. Henderson resigned, having enlisted with the C.A.S.C. Moved by H. Pethrick, seconded by A. Bannister, that "A hearty vote of thanks be extended to our retiring Treasurer, and that his report be adopted." Carried unanimously.

Mr. H. Selby was elected Treasurer for the balance of the year.

The vacancies of Messrs. Selby and Hand on the Executive Committee were left over to be filled at the February meeting.

Some will always be above others. Destroy the inequality to-day, and it will appear again to-morrow.—*Emerson.*

"FROM OTHER SOURCES."

"People talk about agitators, but the only real agitator is injustice, and the only way is to correct the injustice and allay the agitation."—Sir Charles Napier.

"I am afraid that 'graft' stands in the way. At all events, there is talk of graft everywhere till one gets tired of hearing the repetition. Of confidence in public men there seems to be but little, and judging from recent events I should say that there is a good deal of justification for this. . . . There is now much talk of impending charges, but nothing happens except sometimes a change of government, and then the man in the street regards that as merely a change of grafters, who, of course, feed upon extravagance and specialization. Akin to graft is patronage. Affairs are largely run on the principle that the spoils belong to the victors. It is not uncommon to find municipal positions filled through the agency of the party in power."—G. N. Barnes, British M.P.

"I have been in public life for 34 years, and during that time I do not know of one case where political patronage ever helped the status of the bench, the Civil Service, a member of parliament or the government. On the other hand, it is always the most dry rot which breaks out and destroys. I hope that in the white light of the present struggle the two parties will agree to do away with the evil. If there is any laxity in public virtue or corruption in 99 cases out of a hundred it is due to the baneful effect of party patronage."—Sir George Foster, a member of the present ministry.

"MUSINGS OF HEB."

Amateur Journalism is a real treat as a job, when the editor happens to have 'wined' the evening before and arrives in the 'chair' a little the worse, etc. But you don't get one over this editor in that way, but what I wanted to say was that in some respects it's a nuisance, you do keep meeting those "dear" people, who are full of anecdotes and things they have heard. I suppose every trade has its humbugs. I was perusing my issue of the Journal dated January 7th, and got such a jolt here and there, so many men getting married. Of course Spring's the time that breeds Love and Poets, and when the weather goes up to 20 below it's quite summer-like, isn't it! It was this way about Xmas, hence so many men going

mad about that time. By what I read, Edmonton is quite a musical centre. Well, it's a fine thing to have around when it's good. I'm surprised at any man named Donald, I won't go further, talking about Gungha Din. Couldn't he have given due consideration to Johnny Walker or Rhoderick Dhu, at such a seasonable time, too. Of course Don's idea was patriotic, good for him, but see which takes best next time. So Jim is a pioneer of the association at Edmonton. Well, "long live Jim." I always had a great liking for Jims, they are such a necessary evil around a place. Sometime, Jim, I will tell you about a brother of mine called Jim. So Mr. Beauchamp of Regina had the nerve to take the final plunge, eh! Well, I'll gamble he won't do it again for months and months and months. Did anyone ever hear of a man purposely recovering from an illness to hunt for a Xmas rush in a post office? Well, such a feat stands to the credit of Mr. Elson of Calgary. Good for you, Sir! Glad you are well, Mr. Elson, you shall be duly knighted with a bottle of bass on my next visit. Referring to F. E. G.'s speech, he should worry, three is jolly good company. Who are the men who wanted the cigars and labels as well. I know lots of men who got neither.—"Heb."

TO MY POSTMAID.

Since that great moment when, my heart's enslaver,

You donned the brassard of the P.M.G. And first began—no ordinary favour—

To call upon a simple bard like me, I've often thought, to make your visits more,

Of sending dummy screeds to my own door.

Each morn, with bashful qualms made wan and quivery,

I lurk behind my windows and await The hour (8.22) of your delivery,

And when you foot it through my garden gate,

However vile the missive that you bring, You'd hardly credit how I bless the thing.

My correspondence, as perhaps you've noted,

Contains no message that a maid has penned,

So please infer from this that I'm devoted

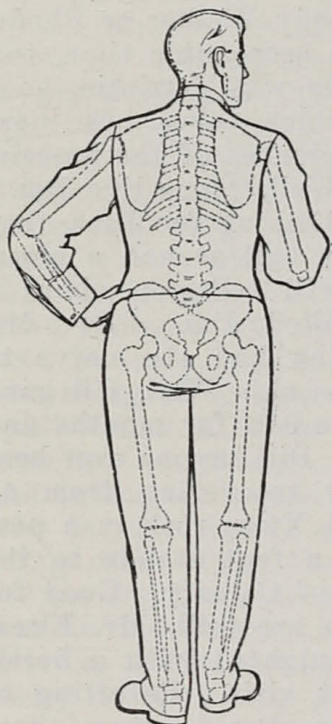
To you alone, and if you'd care to send

A gleam of hope and comfort to a chap My letter-box is always there. Verb. sap!

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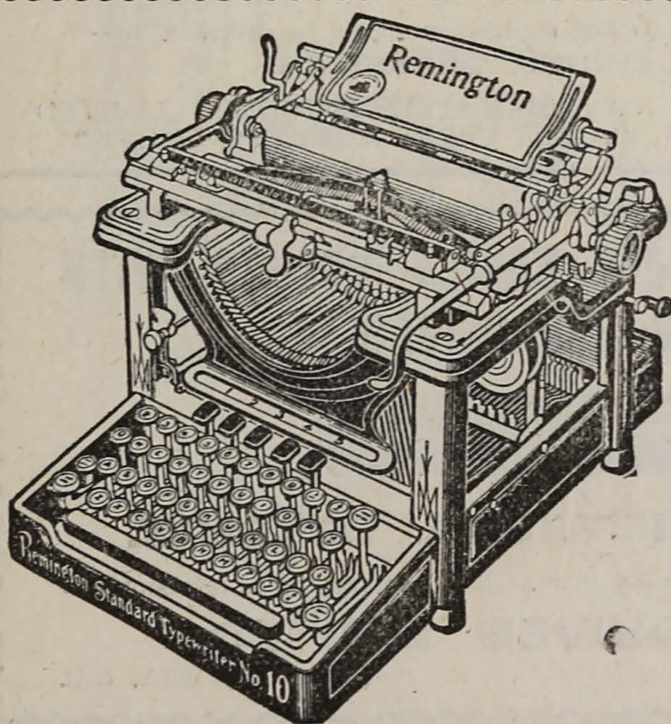
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